

Remarks

Initially, applicant's attorney notes that, as required by Rule 1.121, the claims to be amended by this Preliminary Amendment And Information Disclosure Statement have been presented above with amendments in clean form, as well as in the final pages of this Amendment in marked-up form to show the changes made.

By the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-14 have been cancelled from the present application. In addition, by the foregoing amendments, new Claims 15-38 have been added to the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicant and his attorney respectfully request that the following patents and patent publications, copies of which are attached hereto, be made of record in the official United States Patent and Trademark Office file relating to the present application (i.e., Serial No. 09/975,620).

U.S. Patent Nos.

3,259,431
3,309,137
3,813,069
3,863,982*
4,485,996
4,852,943
4,871,208
4,890,886*
5,024,485*
5,267,777
5,417,473*
5,649,740

Foreign Patent Publications

British Patent No. 1,373,584
European Patent Office 0 839 478 A1*
French Patent No. 2,514,303*
German Patent No. 43 01 734 A1*
International Pat. Appln. WO 90/14031*
International Pat. Appln. WO 98/16140*
International Pat. Appln. WO 00/22961*
Swiss Patent No. 678388 A5*
Swiss Patent No. 685848 A5*

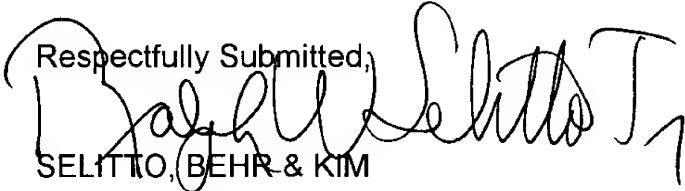
The above-listed patents and patent publications that are designated with an asterisk ("*") are discussed on Pages 1 and 2 of the present application. Since the remaining patents and the British publication are English-language documents, no comments regarding their relevance to the present application are deemed necessary. Moreover, Claims 15-38 have been written to distinguish over devices disclosed in all of the patents and patent publications listed above. In such circumstances, additional comments regarding their relevance are considered unnecessary.

Applicant's attorney also takes this opportunity to inform the United States Patent and Trademark Office about the existence of a copending U.S. patent application which may disclose subject matter similar to that disclosed in the present application. The copending application is entitled "Tilting Mount With Integral Flange" and was filed on October 12, 2000 by the Lord Corporation. A copy of Lord's copending application is not presently available to the public.

In order to facilitate the Examiner's citation of the patents and patent publications listed above, applicant's attorney has completed United States Patent and

Trademark Form PTO-1449. The completed form is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the \$198 amount required to cover the additional United States Patent and Trademark Office fees for the examination of the eleven (11) additional claims, in excess of twenty total claims, submitted with the entry of this Preliminary Amendment And Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 19-1218. Should there be any additional fees, including extension fees, due as a result of the submission of this Preliminary Amendment And Information Disclosure Statement, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 19-1218.

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Page 19, line 1, the heading "Patent claims" has been replaced with the following new heading:

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

Claims 1-14 have been canceled.

New Claims 15-38 have been added.